

Honorable Kevin Murphy, Speaker of the House
Nova Scotia Legislature Hon.KevinMurphy@novascotia.ca

April 1st, 2019

Dear Honorable Murphy,

When I became aware of the heated exchange between the Progressive Conservative's Leader, Tim Houston and Education Minister, Zach Churchill last Tuesday, March 26th it drew my attention because of an experience I had with Minister Churchill.

I understand there are discrepancies with what happened last Tuesday and whether as Minister Churchill describes he reached his hands out to shake hands or as Mr. Houston stated, "Churchill grabbed him by the shoulders."

I recall during my time as a Member of the Legislature the House of Assembly approved on May 19th, 2016, "**The Nova Scotia House of Assembly Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Harassment in the Workplace.**"

Under Roles and Responsibilities of the policy, the complainant may take their complaint to the Speaker and as you are aware there is a list called **Action to be taken**. The Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee is another avenue for the complainant to go with their issue. Although the information I have is from the media and I realize there most likely are details I am not aware of, it sounds as though the policy for harassment in the workplace was not used and I am inquiring why?

Since it appears the new and first House of Assembly policy on workplace harassment was not acted upon, I feel it is important that you are made aware of an incident that took place in the Legislature between myself and Minister Churchill who was the Minister of DNR at that time. This was before the harassment policy existed. After a heated Question Period Minister Churchill came over to the opposition side of the House. I was sitting at my desk with my head down focusing on work and I did not even know he was on the opposition side. Suddenly from behind me I felt this very rough yank on my shoulder which was totally unexpected, and it frightened me. After a few tense moments and words, he left, and I reported the incident to my caucus and leader. The Premier was made aware of the incident and asked to ensure it didn't happen again.

I am concerned there seems to be a pattern of inappropriate behavior by Minister Churchill when he is angry. With the additional knowledge you have in this letter I sincerely hope you will proceed with the policy that is in place for these types of matters; **The Nova Scotia House of Assembly Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Harassment in the Workplace.**

Regards,

cc: Premier Stephen MacNeil, Leader of the Progressive Conservatives, Tim Houston
Leader of the New Democratic Party, Gary Burrill